(c) to (e) Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal proposing Poovar in Thiruvananthapuram District on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border as the possible location for setting up of international size shipyard on the West Coast of India. The details of the proposal are as under:

- The proposed site has a waterfront area of 2.5 km in length and about 800-1000 acres can be made available of which a part will be by land acquisition and rest by reclamation.
- Water depth of 13 metre is available within 500 metres of the shoreline. After reclamation the depth of 13 metre will be available alongside.
- The site can be easily provided with road-rail connectivity. At present, NH-47 is less than 10 km from the site and Kanyakumari-Thiruvananthapuram broad gauge railway line is less than 10 km away.
- The new Port at Vizhinjam, which is about 10 km from the proposed site, can be made use for the shipment of all the material required for the development and functioning of the shipyard.

Further, Mumbai Port Trust, nodal agency for setting up of international size shipyard on the West Coast of India, has received proposals from three Maritime States indicating the locations *viz.* Poovar in Kerala, Kundle Beach in Tadri Port in Karnataka and Tuna Tekra near Kandla Port in Gujarat.

The above proposals submitted by the Maritime States shall be made available to the consultant being appointed by the nodal agency.

Four-laning of NHs in Rajasthan

†1200. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Rajasthan has proposed the work of four-laning of National Highway No. 11 (Jaipur-Reengur-Sikar), National Highways No. 12, (Jaipur-Tonk-Kota- Jhalawad Road upto the border of Madhya Pradesh), National Highway No. 14 (Byawar-Pali-Sirohi Road) and National Highway No. 8 (Byawar-Udaipur Road);

(b) if so, by when these roads would be converted into four-lane;

(c) whether it is also a fact that National Highway No. 79 from Chittourgadh to Neemach also deserves to be converted into four-lane; and

(d) if so, by when the portion between Chittourgadh to Neemach would be converted into four-lane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Four-laning of NH-11 (Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar), NH-12 (Jaipur-Tonk, Jhalawad road) and NH-14 (Beawar-Pali-Sirohi Road) has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III, except the section of NH-8 (Beawar-Udaipur road). NHDP Phase-III is scheduled for completion by December, 2013.

(c) and (d) The four-laning of NH-79 from Chittourgadh to Neemach section is not included under NHDP. Four-laning of various road stretches is taken up keeping in view availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Fatal accidents due to traffic violation on NHs

1201. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drivers do not follow traffic rules on the National Highways and Expressways resulting into fatal accidents; and

(b) if so, the number of accidents that have taken place on National Highways and Expressways during the last three years and the number of casualties therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Road accidents and fatalities occurring on National Highways and Expressways are mainly caused due to a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather, cattle, fallen trees etc. Other factors that contribute to road accidents are increase in vehicular population, increase in population, heterogeneous traffic, modern high speed vehicles, increase in road space, etc. It is not possible to say that the accidents are caused only by the drivers not following the traffic rules. Data on road accidents due to 'drivers not following traffic rules' cannot be segregated. However, the total number of road accidents that occurred on the National Highways and Expressways in the country and the number of persons killed in these road accidents during the calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are given below:-

Year	Number of road accidents that occurred on the National Highways	Number of road accidents that occurred on the Expressways	Number of persons killed in road accidents that occurred on the National Highways	Number of persons killed in road accidents that occurred on the Expressways
2004	126396	3869	29439	5284
2005	123758	6236	26685	8754
2006	97429	4778	31717	6343

Brahmaputra waterways project

1202. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 308 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2008 and state: